

Of their first day's experiences, John B. Lord wrote:

"We were officially met at the dock and received instructions to proceed out into the country to inspect one of the training camps where women get intensive farm training in eight weeks," Mr. Lord wrote. "The girls come from many walks in life and from any occupation—sign on as a soldier enlists—learn to do dairying, ploughing (with sturdy little tractors), seeding, planting and in fact everything about a farm by practical experience. After such a training they go by order to any part of the country to any farm where a man can be released for military duty."

"We have read of the women of France; the women of England are just as remarkable and their spirit to aid the country is just as superb."

"Hurry on to London for the purpose of conferring with Lord Rhonda, British food controller, and inspecting the municipal kitchen queues—the commission went through an air raid, details of which they will probably tell their American audiences."

"What we saw was not warfare—just plain murder; direct attempts made on lives of innocent non-combatants," one member commented.

Not only did the commission find out how the English civilian population lives, but the members made a special trip to a German-American detention camp, where large numbers of German civilians, in England when war was declared, are interned. Here the housing plan of feeding was inspected.

These side trips, which the Americans made the most of, were unusually valuable in their assignment of finding out how the allied civilian population is living—what food control means to the English family, and what foods are obtainable.

In France the commission spent four days visiting the British front and the same length of time with the French forces. For five days the commission had quarters and mess with the American expeditionary forces, billeted with the troops. American audiences will be told actual conditions in the army camps' food supply—not in the form of official reports, but in the more interesting style of the lecturer who has an eye for the human interest element involved.

Why nutritious food, plentifully supplied, is demanded by the armies afield is one of the outstanding features of the military-economic situation the commission will be able to make clear.

France's ability to produce food crops was carefully investigated by the commission. My motor the entire party toured the agricultural regions far behind the lines, visiting country that has been neglected by virtually all writers going abroad eager to see the military operations rather than the equally important armies of workers in the farming lands.

#### LAINGSBURG.

Mrs. J. D. Houghton visited relatives at Laingsburg and Perry on Sunday—Frank Young, of Youngs, Saskatchewan, a former resident here, was a guest in the J. Walters home a few days last week—The school and electric light plant have been closed for the past week on account of lack of fuel—Mrs. S. Ward underwent an operation at her home Saturday—Mrs. S. Larrabee is spending a few days with her daughter in Durand—H. R. Sheffield was home from Durand over Sunday—Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock of Howell, have been spending a few days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Holden—W. J. Poluhni and family, who have been traveling with a chautauque company through the west, are guests at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Powell—John Swender has been quite sick for the past two weeks—The L. A. S. of the Baptist church have elected the following officers for the coming year: President, Mrs. Austin Honsberger; vice president, Mrs. R. Smith; secretary, Mrs. Ray Galligan; treasurer, Mrs. W. Clark.

#### Laingsburg Grange Installs Officers.

The following officers have been installed by Laingsburg Grange No. 1361, for the coming year: Master, E. L. Sieb; overseer, G. J. Austin; lecturer, L. E. Willett; steward, C. L. Wilson; assistant steward, Scott Woodhull; lady assistant, Mrs. Scott Woodhull; secretary, E. T. Smith; treasurer, E. McDougall; chaplain, Mrs. L. E. Willett; pomona, Mrs. E. Sieb; Ceres, Mrs. G. J. Austin; Flora, Mrs. C. F. Wilson; gatekeeper, A. H. Widden.

#### HASTENED RUSSIAN COLLAPSE

"We must not overlook the fact that Russia collapsed, not because of the Germans on her borders, but because she failed to organize and feed her own citizenship," the food administration announced.

"We must be warned that if we are to emerge victorious from this war we cannot risk the collapse of another of our associates in this war from this cause."

"Anybody that is looking for the collapse of the German people on the food question had better turn around and look at the moon, because the results will be the same. Germany is in no more danger of collapsing on that score than we are, if as much."

#### Poisonous Constituent of Ivy.

Whether the poisonous constituent of poison ivy is chemical or bacterial is discussed in the Medical Record.

Doctor Frost insists that it is bacterial, because of the incubation period, the complete natural immunity of certain individuals, and that exposure may be strictly limited to proximity of the plant and for other reasons, and asserts that he has found a form of bacteria constant on all leaves examined.

J. T. McNair insists that actual contact with the resinous sap must occur, and that neither mixing with mercury nor heating destroys the poisonous quality of the sap. He therefore believes the action is chemical.

#### The Usual Difficulty.

"I wish I had a lot of money," he said, rather unoriginally, we thought. "What a selfish wish!" we murmured, echoing bromide with bromide. "It is not selfish," he asserted. "Indeed, I was thinking how much good I could do if I had money."

"You can do a lot of good as it is," we counseled sagely. "It is not necessary to be rich to do good. There are many, many things you can do to ameliorate suffering and distress. Personal service, and all that sort of thing."

"Yes, yes," he said impatiently. "But nobody will ever hear of it."

Ay, there's the rub!—Exchange.

#### Find Skeleton of Giant.

A perfect skeleton was uncovered in Surrey, England, during the work of carrying out alterations to surface water drainage in one of the main streets in Farnham. The chief bones were in a perfect state of preservation, and were sufficient to show that the body was that of a man of unusual stature. Close by was found a bone of a horse. The site of a Norman cemetery is only a little distance from the spot where the body was found, and here some years ago cinerary urns were discovered, which were stated to be perfect examples of first-century urns. Some of these are now preserved in Waverly abbey.

#### Evidently She Had Not.

The small boy was teasing his mamma for candy all during the preparation for a trip downtown, when finally, exasperated, she said: "Claude, if you don't stop mother will be angry. If I see fit when we get there I'll buy some, otherwise I'll not."

He was quiet during several visits in and out of the downtown stores, when finally he said: "Mother, have you seen your fit yet?"

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SHIAWASSEE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Corunna, Mich., Jan. 3, 1918.

The Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1917, of the affairs and conditions of the Shiawassee Mutual Fire Insurance Company, located at Corunna, organized under the laws of the State of Michigan, and doing business in the county of Shiawassee is said state.

F. H. RUSH, President.  
F. O. Address, Owosso, Mich.  
Z. D. HURRELL, Secretary.  
P. O. Address, Owosso, Mich.

#### Memberships

Number of members Dec. 31, 1916 3303  
Number of members added during the year 202  
Total 3505

Number of members withdrawn and policies cancelled 226

Number of members now belonging 3279

#### Risks

Amount of property at risk Dec. 31, 1916 7,584,725

Amount of property added during the year 2,275,820

Total 9,860,545

Deducted risks cancelled and otherwise terminated 1,807,706

Amount at risk Dec. 31, 1917 8,052,839

#### Resources

Cash in Treasurers hands Dec. 31, 1917 1,448.25

Cash in Agents' hands Dec. 31, 1917 320.35

Total 1,768.60

#### Liabilities

Outstanding 20.26

#### Income

Assessments collected 15,348.51

Premiums collected 588.55

Increase, cash collected 571.43

Membership and policy cash collected 358.00

Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1917 1,307.81

Total 18,174.70

#### Expenditures

Losses actually paid during the year (of which \$3087.25 occurred in previous year) 13,733.50

Officers salary (Schedule A) 845.95

All other expenses (Schedule B) 1,525.45

Total 16,104.90

#### Schedule A

F. H. Rush, President 20.00

F. H. Rush, Director 58.50

F. H. Miller, Director 51.00

Amos Parmenter, Auditor 6.00

June 9. Chas. Kelsey, damage to barn by lightning	3.00
June 9. Orlando Lee, damage to house by lightning	6.00
June 25. Chas. Lahring, sheep killed by lightning	10.00
Sept. 2. Levens, Arthur, damage to household goods by fire	10.00
Sept. 6. Harvey Cole, stack of barley, estimated 200 bus, struck by lightning and burned	220.00
Jan. 27. John Graham, house damaged by fire	4.00
	\$ 265.00

#### CALEDONIA

Feb. 25. Frank Eldridge, household goods burned and damaged by fire	242.85
June 19. Walter T. Parker, loss of house by fire	650.00
May 19. Geo. Aiken, sheep killed by lightning	18.00
June 19. Geo. E. Hoagie, cow killed by lightning	85.00
June 26. James Simeon, 3 yr. colt killed by lightning	175.00
	\$ 1170.85

#### HAZELTON

Jan. 25. Harry Rolfe, house damaged by fire	3.00
Mar. 1. Julia Jeandheur, barn struck by lightning and burned	200.00
May 23. John Rejman, house and contents damaged by fire	10.00
May 22. Hiram Walter, house and contents damaged by fire	16.30
July 2. Brate Ormsby, house and contents damaged by lightning	5.00
Sept. 5. John Muldrew, house and contents damaged by fire	10.00
	\$ 244.30

#### MIDDLEBURY

Feb. 17. L. J. Dennison, household goods damaged by fire	10.50
June 2. C. C. Fink, colt killed by lightning	125.00
Sept. 12. H. M. Searing, cow killed by lightning (1-2 int.)	50.00
	\$ 185.50

#### NEW HAVEN

Jan. 28. John F. Frauts, house destroyed by fire	800.00
Feb. 9. Claud Malory, house and part of contents destroyed by fire	795.75
Feb. 28. Henry Marker, house damaged by fire	14.00
June 7. B. P. Wightman, house damaged by fire	10.00
July 2. Geo. Malory, cow killed by lightning	85.00
	\$ 1704.75

#### OWOSSO

1916. L. J. Doepker, heifer killed by lightning	35.00
1917. May 30. Julius Kehler, house damaged by fire	3.75
Aug. Henry Rosman, calf killed by lightning	18.00
Nov. 6. Fred Launstein, house and part of contents destroyed by fire	1050.00
	\$ 1106.75

#### PERRY

June 23. Wm. Cooper, damage to barn and horse killed by lightning	205.00
June 21. Chas. E. Curry, damage to house by fire	20.00
	\$ 225.00

#### RUSH

Apr. 19. N. E. Allen, house damaged by lightning	3.00
July 2. Robert Sauer, steer killed by lightning	68.00
July 10. James King, sheep killed by lightning	10.00
Sept. 11. John King, wheat and oats stacks by fire	300.00
	\$ 381.00

#### SCIOTA

May 26. Howard Balcom, ram killed by lightning	12.00
June 19. E. E. Brown, cow killed by lightning	75.00
	\$ 87.00

#### SHIAWASSEE

Feb. 9. Frank Polasek, house damaged by fire	10.00
Sept. 5. Fred Moody, horse killed by lightning	200.00
Sept. 5. W. W. Moore estate, 5 cows killed by lightning	480.00
Sept. 5. Daniel Quinn, barn and contents, hay, grain and house burned—cause, lightning	991.95
	\$ 1681.95

#### VENICE

Sept. 8. Chester Frost, household goods damaged by fire	65.00

#### VERNON

Jan. 7. Mrs. Chas. D. Coon, dwelling, house, contents, small tools, beans, seed corn and clover seed—by fire	1632.80
Mrs. Fred Brown, damage to house by fire	3.50
	\$ 1636.30

#### WOODHULL

July 31. J. G. Marsh, damage to house by fire	4.50
Sept. 5. Philander Stevens & Son, sheep killed by lightning	8.00
Oct. 15. Old Corunna State Bank, house destroyed by fire	800.00
Oct. 15. E. D. Brown, household goods damaged by fire	955.85
	\$ 1768.35
Grand Total	\$10,646.25

#### Miscellaneous Questions

How many assessments have been made during the year?

Answer. One.

When was the assessment ordered?

Answer. June 1st.

What was the total liabilities of the Company at that time?

Answer. \$3092.25.

What is the amount of assessments during the year?

Answer. \$16036.87.

What is the rate per cent of such assessments on the amount of insurance in force?

Answer. .002.

What is the rate per cent of such assessments on the premium or deposit notes? We take none.

What amount of losses or expenses are allowed to accumulate before an assessment is ordered?

Answer. No certain amount.

Does the Company, in making assessments, provide therein for any surplus fund over the actual losses assessed? If so, how much?

Answer. What is thought to be necessary to pay the losses and expenses for the ensuing year.

What is the aggregate valuation of real property insured by the company?

Answer. Cannot say.

What proportion of damage or actual loss sustained on real property does the Company pay?

Answer. Three-fourths.

What is the aggregate valuation of personal property insured by the company?

Answer. Cannot say.

What proportion of damage or actual loss sustained on personal property does the Company pay?

Answer. Full amount if insured for that amount.

Are all risks examined before written?

Answer. Yes.

By whom? Answer. By town agent.

## HUSBAND SAVES WIFE

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Mrs. JAS. ROHRBERG, 620 Knapp St., N. S., Pittsburgh, Pa.

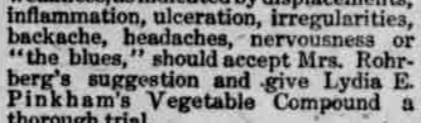
Women who suffer from any form of weakness, as indicated by displacements, inflammation, ulceration, irregularities, backache, headaches, nervousness or "the blues," should accept Mrs. Rohrborg's suggestion and give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a thorough trial.

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## In the Ranks.



(Copyright by Life Pub. Co.)  
Courtesy of Life and Charles Dana Gibson.

The American House Manager is today a member of the army that is fighting to save democracy in the world. More than 11,000,000 managers of American homes have enlisted for the duration of the war and pledged themselves to support the fighting men by the way they buy, cook and serve food. Food will win the war, and these women will help to win it. America must send food to Europe. The armies cannot hold out if we fail to send it. Only certain foods

can be shipped—those that pack the most food value into the smallest shipping space. These foods are wheat, meat, fats, sugar. We cannot eat them and send them too. We must send these foods, and in order to do that we must eat other foods ourselves. The American House Manager will see to it that no food comes into her home that does not do its full duty under her management in winning the war.

#### Curious Burials.

The inhabitants of Mesopotamia have curious customs in the disposal of their dead. The corpse is carried to the grave dressed in ordinary clothes, with the face uncovered. Bodies are buried in shallow graves, and after a period dug up again, the bones being collected into a white linen bag and deposited in small buildings.

"One day," says an officer of the R. A. M. C., "I saw such a bag in a church; it was labelled with a woman's name. In a village near the Struma I have visited one of these storehouses of the bones of the departed. The bags most recently placed in it were still white and whole; others were whole, but stained brown by time. Those that had been deposited in years past had rotted away."

#### First Introduced Cane.

The Mexicans first used canes in America. When the Spanish conquered the country, a queer custom was introduced. The chief executive of the towns carried a stick with a gold or silver head. It was a kind of scepter.

The people, of course, rarely knew how to read or write, and when anyone was wanted for a crime, one of the mayor's subordinates would take the cane, find the culprit and place it horizontally upon the latter's chest.

The proceeding was equivalent to a summons, and the man had to appear before the mayor under the penalty of being cast into prison. This action was borrowed from Spain, where it still prevails in the more important actions.

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